

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please **cancel claim 3** without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter set forth therein.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

1. (**currently amended**) A heat-developable image recording material comprising:

a support;

a photosensitive silver halide;

a reducing agent for a silver ion;

a binder; and

a non-photosensitive organic silver salt grain,

wherein the non-photosensitive organic silver salt grain has:

1) ~~a silver stearate content of 1 mol% or less per mol of the non-photosensitive organic silver salt~~ substantially no silver stearate;

2) a length/width ratio of 1 to 9;

3) an aspect ratio of 1.1 to 30; and

4) an equivalent-sphere diameter of 0.05 to 1 μm

5) a content of silver behenate that is 90 to 100 mol%

per mol of the non-photosensitive organic silver salt.

2. (previously presented) The heat-developable image recording material as claimed in claim 1, wherein the non-photosensitive organic silver salt grain has a silver arachidate content of 6 mol% or less per mol of the non-photosensitive organic silver salt.

3. (canceled).

4. (previously presented) The heat-developable image recording material as claimed in claim 1, wherein the non-photosensitive organic silver salt grain has a silver behenate content of 95 to 100 mol% per mol of the non-photosensitive organic silver salt.

5. (previously presented) The heat-developable image recording material as claimed in claim 1, wherein the non-photosensitive organic silver salt grain has a silver behenate content of 97 to 100 mol% per mol of the non-photosensitive organic silver salt.

6. (original) The heat-developable image recording material as claimed in claim 1, wherein the non-photosensitive organic silver salt grain is prepared at 60°C or less.

7. (original) The heat-developable image recording material as claimed in claim 1, wherein the non-photosensitive organic silver salt grain is prepared by adding an aqueous silver nitrate solution and a solution or suspension of an organic acid alkali metal salt to a closed mixing vessel.

8. (original) The heat-developable image recording material as claimed in claim 1, wherein the non-photosensitive organic silver salt grain is desalted by an ultrafiltration.

9. (original) The heat-developable image recording material as claimed in claim 1, which further comprises an image-forming layer containing the photosensitive silver halide and the non-photosensitive organic silver salt grain.

10. (original) The heat-developable image recording material as claimed in claim 9, wherein the image-forming layer further contains the reducing agent for a silver ion and the binder.

11. (original) The heat-developable image recording material as claimed in claim 9, which further comprises a second

image-forming layer containing the reducing agent for a silver ion and the binder.

12. (previously presented) The heat-developable image recording material as claimed in claim 1, wherein the non-photosensitive organic silver salt grain has a silver arachidate content of 3 mol% or less per mol of the non-photosensitive organic silver salt.

13. (previously presented) A heat-developable image recording material comprising:

- a support;
- a photosensitive silver halide;
- a reducing agent for a silver ion;
- a binder; and
- a non-photosensitive organic silver salt grain,

wherein the non-photosensitive organic silver salt grain has:

- 1) a silver stearate content of 1 mol% or less per mol of the non-photosensitive organic silver salt;
- 2) a length/width ratio of 1 to 9;
- 3) an aspect ratio of 1.1 to 30;
- 4) an equivalent-sphere diameter of 0.05 to 1 μm ,

- 5) the non-photosensitive organic silver salt grain has a silver arachidate content of 6 mol% or less per mol of the non-photosensitive organic silver salt, and
- 6) the non-photosensitive organic silver salt grain has a silver behenate content of 90 to 100 mol% per mol of the non-photosensitive organic silver salt.